



Kindergarten

Come Learn With Us

Register Your Child in Full-Day Kindergarten
at the Toronto District School Board

tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten



Welcome to Kindergarten



Starting school is an important milestone for children and their families.

At the TDSB, we are committed to creating inclusive, safe and caring classrooms that enable all children to learn and grow.

Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK)

In the TDSB, 4 and 5-year-old children benefit from a rich full-day program. Children learn through play, inquiry, and exploration in the classroom and outdoors.

We believe that young children are curious, competent, and capable of complex thinking. We are committed to providing high quality programming that will nourish each child's academic, social and emotional development and prepare them for success in school and in life.



The Kindergarten Educator Team



At the TDSB, teachers and early childhood educators (ECE) are committed to creating inclusive, safe and caring classrooms. Our schools provide a respectful environment in which all children can learn and grow.

Teachers and early childhood educators work as a team to support children's learning.

Together they are able to:

- interact with each child every day to create a program based on your child's interests
- create a sense of belonging
- support their social and emotional needs and academic growth

A few of our classes have one teacher and 15 students. Classes that are larger have both a teacher and an ECE. In both situations, children are well supported by professional teachers and early childhood educators.

Intentional Play-Based Learning

Research tells us that there is a direct link between play and learning for children. Kindergarten students at the TDSB flourish because they participate in planned, purposeful play.

Learning is integrated throughout the program enabling children to develop literacy and mathematical skills while fostering their independence, social skills and creativity.



To ensure children are equipped to succeed in today's global and digital world, our educators provide them with opportunities to be creative problem solvers. Classrooms across the TDSB are equipped with tablets, computer applications and a variety of software to promote innovation and teach students about safe and responsible use of technology.

The Kindergarten Program



Science explorations build inquiry skills, such as asking questions, predicting, planning, testing, analyzing, and drawing conclusions.



Outdoor learning occurs daily. Experiences outside encourage connections that build a sense of wonder and curiosity about the natural world.



Technology is a tool children use to develop skills in designing, communicating, and researching and documenting their own learning.



Literacy & numeracy is embedded in the program in many ways. Children learn about letters and numbers, read a variety of books, and write messages.

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Building with blocks develops problem-solving and spatial-reasoning skills which are connected to science, mathematics and other subjects.



Problem-solving activities provide opportunities to explore, create, communicate, and ask questions while developing small and gross motor skills.



Self-regulation or social emotional learning involves communicating, reading, and writing. Through role play children build negotiation skills and empathy.



The arts allow children to express themselves in multiple ways. Exploring with various materials enhances creativity, and the development of communication skills.



In Kindergarten, your child belonging, engagement

Belonging

Every child has a sense of belonging when he or she is connected to others and contributes to their world.



Expression

Every child is a capable communicator who expresses himself or herself in many ways.



will develop their well-being, sense of
and expression.



Engagement

Every child is an active and engaged learner who explores the world with body, mind and senses.



Well-Being

Every child is developing a sense of self, health and well-being.

Source: Government of Ontario, Ministry of Education (2013).
How Does Learning Happen?

My Child Does Not Speak English Yet

More than half of TDSB families speak a language other than English at home. Research shows that maintaining your child's first language has tremendous long-term benefits. We encourage families to continue speaking and reading with their child in their home language. Your child's classroom teacher or early childhood educator can provide information about where to access materials such as children's books and other information in different languages.



TDSB's Kindergarten program also supports children who do not speak English to build their communication skills in English.

Supporting All Children

Children in Kindergarten have a wide range of abilities, strengths and needs. We warmly welcome all children and work collaboratively with families to ensure a seamless transition into school.

Our priority is to ensure that all children have a positive experience in Kindergarten. Some children may have special education needs (e.g. physical disabilities, Speech & Language difficulties) or a diagnosis such as Autism Spectrum Disorder. In addition, some children may also require assistance in the area of personal care or skills of daily living. We are committed to making sure that all students with special education needs receive appropriate supports.



We encourage you to discuss the individual strengths and needs of your child and share any relevant documentation and concerns with the school upon registration. Please continue to discuss any concerns about your child with the teacher and early childhood educator. Educators and parents are partners in supporting young learners.

Child Care Before and After School



Many parents require before- and after-school care for their children. There is an FDK Before- and After-School Program for 4 and 5-year-old children in over half of TDSB elementary schools. These programs are run by local licensed child care operators. Find out more at tdsb.on.ca/childcare.

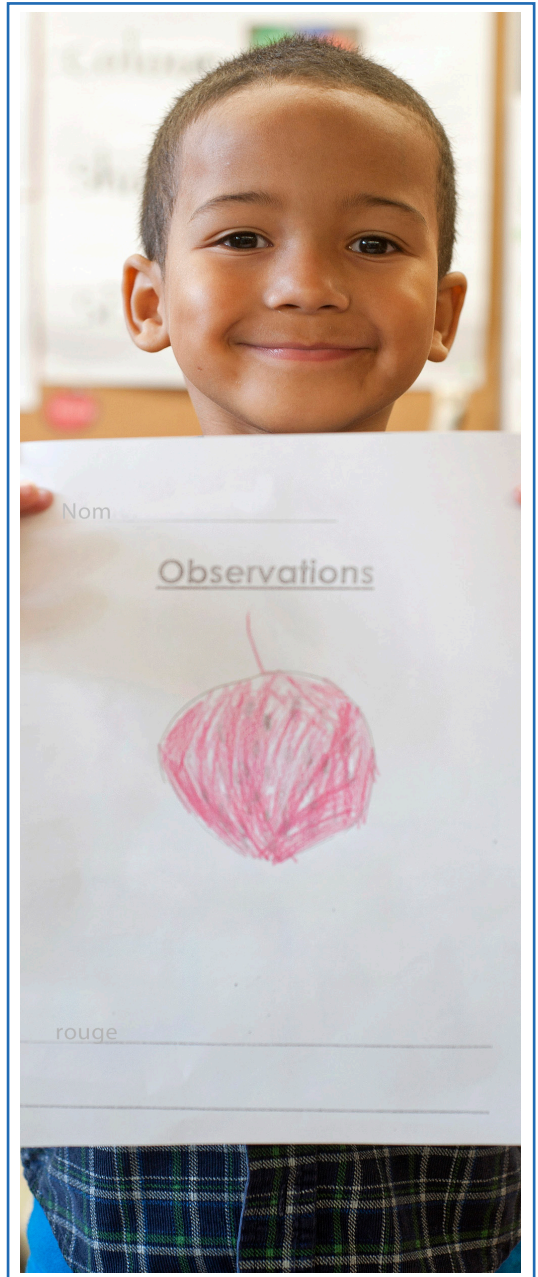
The Before- and After-School Program is offered in schools where there is confirmed interest (through a separate registration process) from at least 20 families with children in Kindergarten. You may download the survey or inquire at the school office.

Early French Immersion Program

At the TDSB, the Early French Immersion program begins in Senior Kindergarten. This is an opportunity for all children to learn a second or third new language.

Application to this program is made the year your child is in Junior Kindergarten.

Your child's school will provide you with further information about the online registration process. Complete information about the French Immersion program, application procedures and important deadlines can be found at www.tdsb.on.ca/french.



Parenting & Family Literacy Centres (PFLC's)

We invite you to visit a Parenting and Family Literacy Centre with your child as part of your preparation for Kindergarten. In the TDSB, we have 78 school-based programs for parent(s) and/or caregiver(s), for children from birth to age 6. Parents/caregivers are fully involved in every activity. This includes them in their children's learning, builds confidence and connects them to other families. A listing of program locations is available at tdsb.on.ca/parenting.

These play-based programs are free and are designed to prepare children for learning in Kindergarten.



Here is some feedback directly from a parent and a school principal after visiting a PFLC:

In addition to being a single parent I am also a newcomer to Canada and I cannot begin to express how stressful this time was for me. The Parenting and Family Literacy Centre gave my son and I the ability learn about the education system, to network with the school and other parents, and made it easier for us to make the transition from one country to another and be a part of the community. (Parent)

Our Parenting and Family Literacy Centre has provided our families with an opportunity to build a positive relationship with our staff, principals and vice principals and has allowed us to teach the necessary skills that our young learners need to effectively make the transition to Kindergarten. Our Parenting and Family Literacy Centre has created the feeling that our school is truly the hub of the community. (Principal)

Tips to Help Your Child Prepare for School

- Develop a relationship with your child's teacher and share information about his or her needs. Nobody knows your child like you do!
- Be positive and relaxed on their first day of school. Your attitude can greatly affect your child's feelings around school.
- Establish Kindergarten routines early, such as sharing with other kids, taking turns and listening to instructions.
- Talk to your child about what their day will be like at school and what sort of activities they will be taking part in.
- Ease anxiety around Kindergarten - talking positively will have an incredible affect on your child's approach to school.
- Encourage your child to use language to make his/her needs known and to solve problems (e.g. when sharing with others).
- Kindergarteners need to know how to make choices. Encourage choice at home during play time or while dressing themselves.
- Help prepare your child for math by talking about numbers, shapes and patterns at home and outside.



Attendance Matters in Kindergarten

The early years are the foundation for developing children's self-confidence, academic skills and sense of responsibility. Regular attendance at school allows children to participate in and benefit from daily learning experiences. Children who attend school regularly tend to feel more connected to their school and are better able to develop meaningful friendships. Research has shown that regular attendance is an important factor in student achievement and well-being.

How to Register for Kindergarten

Registration for all TDSB Kindergarten programs begins in February. We look forward to welcoming you and your child!

Step 1: Find your local school
Visit: **tdsb.on.ca/schools**
for more information

Step 2: Call the local school for an appointment and bring the following documents:

- Proof of age (birth certificate or passport)
- Proof of address (two pieces of identification that show your address)
- Proof of immunization (the card that shows a list of needles your child has received)
- Verification of date of arrival, if your child was not born in Canada

Please note, to register a child for Kindergarten you must be the child's parent or legal guardian.



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Early Years Learning & Care, Toronto District School Board

